

CHAPTER 84A

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Referred to in [§15E.208](#)

84A.1	Department of workforce development — director — divisions.	84A.5	Department of workforce development — primary responsibilities.
84A.1A	Workforce development board.	84A.6	Job placement and training programs.
84A.1B	Duties of the workforce development board.	84A.7	Iowa conservation corps.
84A.1C	Workforce development corporation.	84A.8	Workforce investment program.
84A.2	and 84A.3 Reserved.	84A.9	Statewide mentoring program.
84A.4	Regional advisory boards.	84A.10	New employment opportunity program.
		84A.11	Nursing workforce data clearinghouse.

84A.1 Department of workforce development — director — divisions.

1. The department of workforce development is created to administer the laws of this state relating to unemployment compensation insurance, job placement and training, employment safety, labor standards, and workers' compensation.

2. The chief executive officer of the department of workforce development is the director who shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate under the confirmation procedures of [section 2.32](#).

a. The director of the department of workforce development shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

b. The governor shall set the salary of the director within the applicable salary range established by the general assembly.

c. The director shall be selected solely on the ability to administer the duties and functions granted to the director and the department and shall devote full time to the duties of the director.

d. If the office of director becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

3. a. The director of the department of workforce development shall, subject to the requirements of [section 84A.1B](#), prepare, administer, and control the budget of the department and its divisions and shall approve the employment of all personnel of the department and its divisions.

b. The director of the department of workforce development shall direct the administrative and compliance functions and control the docket of the division of workers' compensation.

4. The department of workforce development shall include the division of labor services, the division of workers' compensation, and other divisions as appropriate.

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §901; 87 Acts, ch 234, §424; 90 Acts, ch 1261, §25; 96 Acts, ch 1186, §8; 98 Acts, ch 1061, §1; 2002 Acts, ch 1050, §9; 2008 Acts, ch 1032, §168](#)

Referred to in [§7E.5, §88.2, §88A.1, §88B.1, §89A.1, §89B.3, §91.1, §96.19](#)

84A.1A Workforce development board.

1. An Iowa workforce development board is created, consisting of nine voting members appointed by the governor and twelve ex officio, nonvoting members.

a. The governor shall appoint the nine voting members of the workforce development board for a term of four years beginning and ending as provided by [section 69.19](#), subject to confirmation by the senate, and the governor's appointments shall include persons knowledgeable in the area of workforce development. Of the nine voting members, one member shall represent a nonprofit organization involved in workforce development services, four members shall represent employers, and four members shall represent nonsupervisory employees. Of the members appointed by the governor to represent nonsupervisory employees, two members shall be from statewide labor organizations, one

member shall be an employee representative of a labor management council, and one member shall be a person with experience in worker training programs. The governor shall consider recommendations from statewide labor organizations for the members representing nonsupervisory employees. Not more than five of the voting members shall be from the same political party.

b. The ex officio, nonvoting members are four legislative members; one president, or the president's designee, of the university of northern Iowa, the university of Iowa, or Iowa state university of science and technology, designated by the state board of regents on a rotating basis; one representative from the largest statewide public employees' organization representing state employees; one president, or the president's designee, of an independent Iowa college, appointed by the Iowa association of independent colleges and universities; one superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, of a community college, appointed by the Iowa association of community college presidents; one representative of the vocational rehabilitation community appointed by the state rehabilitation council in the division of Iowa vocational rehabilitation services; one representative of the department of education appointed by the state board of education; one representative of the economic development authority appointed by the director; and one representative of the United States department of labor, office of apprenticeship. The legislative members are two state senators, one appointed by the president of the senate after consultation with the majority leader of the senate, and one appointed by the minority leader of the senate from their respective parties; and two state representatives, one appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives after consultation with the majority leader of the house of representatives, and one appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives from their respective parties. The legislative members shall serve for terms as provided in [section 69.16B](#).

2. A vacancy on the workforce development board shall be filled in the same manner as regular appointments are made for the unexpired portion of the regular term.

3. The workforce development board shall meet in May of each year for the purpose of electing one of its voting members as chairperson and one of its voting members as vice chairperson. However, the chairperson and the vice chairperson shall not be from the same political party. The workforce development board shall meet at the call of the chairperson or when any five members of the workforce development board file a written request with the chairperson for a meeting. Written notice of the time and place of each meeting shall be given to each member of the workforce development board. A majority of the voting members constitutes a quorum.

4. Members of the workforce development board, the director of the department of workforce development, and other employees of the department of workforce development shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. All expenses shall be paid from appropriations for those purposes and the department of workforce development is subject to the budget requirements of [chapter 8](#). Each member of the workforce development board may also be eligible to receive compensation as provided in [section 7E.6](#).

5. If a member of the workforce development board has an interest, either direct or indirect, in a contract to which the department of workforce development is or is to be a party, the interest shall be disclosed to the workforce development board in writing and shall be set forth in the minutes of a meeting of the workforce development board. The member having the interest shall not participate in action by the workforce development board with respect to the contract. [This subsection](#) does not limit the right of a member of the workforce development board to acquire an interest in bonds, or limit the right of a member to have an interest in a bank or other financial institution in which the funds of the department of workforce development are deposited or which is acting as trustee or paying agent under a trust indenture to which the department of workforce development is a party.

[96 Acts, ch 1186, §9; 97 Acts, ch 110, §1; 2001 Acts, ch 24, §21; 2002 Acts, ch 1050, §10; 2008 Acts, ch 1156, §25, 58; 2009 Acts, ch 3, §1; 2009 Acts, ch 41, §29; 2011 Acts, ch 118, §85, 89](#)

Referred to in [§84A.4](#)
Confirmation, see [§2.32](#)

84A.1B Duties of the workforce development board.

The workforce development board shall do all of the following:

1. Develop and coordinate the implementation of a twenty-year comprehensive workforce development plan of specific goals, objectives, and policies for the state. This plan shall be updated annually and revised as necessary. All other state agencies involved in workforce development activities and the regional advisory boards for workforce development shall annually submit to the board for its review and potential inclusion in the plan their goals, objectives, and policies.

2. Prepare a five-year strategic plan for state workforce development to implement the specific comprehensive goals, objectives, and policies of the state. All other state agencies involved in workforce development activities and the regional advisory boards for workforce development shall annually submit to the board for its review and potential inclusion in the strategic plan their specific strategic plans and programs. The five-year strategic plan for state workforce development shall be updated annually.

3. Develop a method of evaluation of the attainment of goals and objectives from pursuing the policies of the five-year and twenty-year plans.

4. Implement the requirements of [chapter 73](#).

5. Approve the budget of the department of workforce development related to workforce development as prepared by the director.

6. Establish guidelines, procedures, and policies for the awarding of grants for workforce development services by the department of workforce development.

7. Review grants or contracts awarded by the department of workforce development, with respect to the department's adherence to the guidelines and procedures and the impact on the five-year strategic plan for workforce development.

8. Make recommendations concerning the use of federal funds received by the department of workforce development with respect to the five-year and twenty-year workforce development plans.

9. Adopt all necessary rules related to workforce development recommended by the director prior to their adoption pursuant to [chapter 17A](#).

[96 Acts, ch 1186, §10; 2001 Acts, ch 24, §22](#)

Referred to in [§84A.1, §84A.1C, §84A.4](#)

84A.1C Workforce development corporation.

1. *Nonprofit corporation for receiving and disbursing funds.* The Iowa workforce development board may organize a corporation under the provisions of [chapter 504](#) for the purpose of receiving and disbursing funds from public or private sources to be used to further workforce development in this state and to accomplish the mission of the board.

2. *Incorporators.* The incorporators of the corporation organized pursuant to [this section](#) shall be the chairperson of the Iowa workforce development board, the director of the department of workforce development, and a member of the Iowa workforce development board selected by the chairperson.

3. *Board of directors.* The board of directors of the corporation organized pursuant to [this section](#) shall be the members of the Iowa workforce development board or their successors in office.

4. *Accepting grants in aid.* The corporation organized pursuant to [this section](#) may accept grants of money or property from the federal government or any other source and may upon its own order use its money, property, or other resources for any of the purposes identified in [section 84A.1B](#).

[99 Acts, ch 21, §1; 2004 Acts, ch 1049, §191; 2004 Acts, ch 1175, §393](#)

84A.2 and 84A.3 Reserved.

84A.4 Regional advisory boards.

1. A regional advisory board shall be established in each service delivery area as defined in [section 84B.2](#). The members of the board shall be appointed by the governor, consistent with the requirements of federal law and in consultation with chief elected officials within

the region. Chief elected officials responsible for recommendations for board membership shall include, but are not limited to, county elected officials, municipal elected officials, and community college directors. The membership of each board shall provide for equal representation of business and labor and shall include a county elected official, a city official, a representative of a school district, and a representative of a community college.

2. Each regional advisory board shall identify workforce development needs in its region, assist the workforce development board and the department of workforce development in the awarding of grants or contracts administered by the department of workforce development in that region and in monitoring the performance of the grants and contracts awarded, make annual reports as required by [section 84A.1B](#), and make recommendations to the workforce development board and department of workforce development concerning workforce development.

3. [Section 84A.1A, subsections 2, 3, and 5](#), apply to the members of a regional advisory board except that the board shall meet if a majority of the members of the board file a written request with the chairperson for a meeting. Members of a regional advisory board shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. All expenses shall be paid from appropriations for those purposes and the department of workforce development is subject to the budget requirements of [chapter 8](#).

[96 Acts, ch 1186, §11; 99 Acts, ch 21, §2; 2001 Acts, ch 24, §23; 2002 Acts, ch 1119, §8](#)

Referred to in [§260H.2](#), [§260H.4](#), [§260H.8](#), [§260I.6](#)

84A.5 Department of workforce development — primary responsibilities.

The department of workforce development, in consultation with the workforce development board and the regional advisory boards, has the primary responsibilities set out in [this section](#).

1. The department of workforce development shall develop and implement a workforce development system which increases the skills of the Iowa workforce, fosters economic growth and the creation of new high skill and high wage jobs through job placement and training services, increases the competitiveness of Iowa businesses by promoting high performance workplaces, and encourages investment in workers.

a. The workforce development system shall strive to provide high quality services to its customers including workers, families, and businesses. The department of workforce development shall maintain a common intake, assessment, and customer tracking system and to the extent practical provide one-stop services to customers at workforce development centers and other service access points. The department of workforce development shall administer a statewide standard skills assessment to assess the employability skills of adult workers statewide and shall instruct appropriate department staff in the administration of the assessment. The assessment shall be included in the one-stop services provided to customers at workforce development centers and other service access points throughout the state.

b. The system shall include an accountability system to measure program performance, identify accomplishments, and evaluate programs to ensure goals and standards are met. The accountability system shall use information obtained from the customer tracking system, the economic development authority, the department of education, and training providers to evaluate the effectiveness of programs. The economic development authority, the department of education, and training providers shall report information concerning the use of any state or federal training or retraining funds to the department of workforce development in a form as required by the department of workforce development. The accountability system shall evaluate all of the following:

(1) The impact of services on wages earned by individuals.

(2) The effectiveness of training services providers in raising the skills of the Iowa workforce.

(3) The impact of placement and training services on Iowa's families, communities, and economy.

2. The department of workforce development shall make information from the customer tracking and accountability system available to the economic development authority, the department of education, and other appropriate public agencies for the purpose of assisting

with the evaluation of programs administered by those departments and agencies and for planning and researching public policies relating to education and economic development.

3. The department of workforce development is responsible for administration of unemployment compensation benefits and collection of employer contributions under [chapter 96](#), providing for the delivery of free public employment services established pursuant to [chapter 96](#), other job placement and training programs established pursuant to [section 84A.6](#), and the delivery of services located throughout the state.

4. The division of labor services is responsible for the administration of the laws of this state under [chapters 88, 88A, 88B, 89, 89A, 89B, 90A, 91, 91A, 91C, 91D, 91E, 92, and 94A](#), and [section 85.68](#). The executive head of the division is the labor commissioner, appointed pursuant to [section 91.2](#).

5. The division of workers' compensation is responsible for the administration of the laws of this state relating to workers' compensation under [chapters 85, 85A, 85B, 86, and 87](#). The executive head of the division is the workers' compensation commissioner, appointed pursuant to [section 86.1](#).

6. The director of the department of workforce development shall form a coordinating committee composed of the director of the department of workforce development, the labor commissioner, the workers' compensation commissioner, and other administrators. The committee shall monitor federal compliance issues relating to coordination of functions among the divisions.

7. The department of workforce development shall administer the following programs:

- a. The Iowa conservation corps established under [section 84A.7](#).
- b. The workforce investment program established under [section 84A.8](#).
- c. The statewide mentoring program established under [section 84A.9](#).
- d. The workforce development centers established under [chapter 84B](#).

8. The department of workforce development shall work with the economic development authority to incorporate workforce development as a component of community-based economic development.

9. The department of workforce development, in consultation with the applicable regional advisory board, shall select service providers, subject to approval by the workforce development board for each service delivery area. A service provider in each service delivery area shall be identified to coordinate the services throughout the service delivery area. The department of workforce development shall select service providers that, to the extent possible, meet or have the ability to meet the following criteria:

- a. The capacity to deliver services uniformly throughout the service delivery area.
- b. The experience to provide workforce development services.
- c. The capacity to cooperate with other public and private agencies and entities in the delivery of education, workforce training, retraining, and workforce development services throughout the service delivery area.
- d. The demonstrated capacity to understand and comply with all applicable state and federal laws, rules, ordinances, regulations, and orders, including fiscal requirements.

10. The department of workforce development shall provide access to information and documents necessary for employers and payors of income, as defined in [sections 252D.16 and 252G.1](#), to comply with child support reporting and payment requirements. Access to the information and documents shall be provided at the central location of the department of workforce development and at each workforce development center.

11. The director of the department of workforce development may adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to charge and collect fees for enhanced or value-added services provided by the department of workforce development which are not required by law to be provided by the department and are not generally available from the department of workforce development. Fees shall not be charged to provide a free public labor exchange. Fees established by the director of the department of workforce development shall be based upon the costs of administering the service, with due regard to the anticipated time spent, and travel costs incurred, by personnel performing the service. The collection of fees authorized by [this subsection](#) shall be treated as repayment receipts as defined in [section 8.2](#).

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §902](#)

C87, §84A.2

93 Acts, ch 180, §53; 96 Acts, ch 1186, §12

C97, §84A.5

98 Acts, ch 1061, §2, 11; 98 Acts, ch 1170, §19; 99 Acts, ch 21, §3; 99 Acts, ch 68, §1; 99 Acts, ch 130, §7; 2001 Acts, ch 61, §13; 2002 Acts, ch 1050, §11; 2007 Acts, ch 211, §33; 2008 Acts, ch 1191, §43; 2011 Acts, ch 118, §85, 89

Referred to in §15.344, §260G.5

84A.6 Job placement and training programs.

1. The department of workforce development, in consultation with the workforce development board and the regional advisory boards, the department of education, and the economic development authority shall work together to develop policies encouraging coordination between skill development, labor exchange, and economic development activities.

2. a. The director of the department of workforce development, in cooperation with the department of human services, shall provide job placement and training to persons referred by the department of human services under the promoting independence and self-sufficiency through employment job opportunities and basic skills program established pursuant to [chapter 239B](#) and the food stamp employment and training program.

b. The department of workforce development, in consultation with the department of human services, shall develop and implement departmental recruitment and employment practices that address the needs of former and current participants in the family investment program under [chapter 239B](#).

3. The director of the department of workforce development, in cooperation with the department of human rights and the vocational rehabilitation services division of the department of education, shall establish a program to provide job placement and training to persons with disabilities.

4. The department of workforce development, in consultation with the college student aid commission, shall issue a quarterly report identifying industries in which the department finds a shortage of skilled workers in this state for the purposes of the skilled workforce shortage tuition grant program established in [section 261.130](#).

86 Acts, ch 1245, §903

C87, §84A.3

96 Acts, ch 1186, §13

C97, §84A.6

97 Acts, ch 41, §32; 2002 Acts, ch 1050, §12; 2005 Acts, ch 175, §58; 2011 Acts, ch 118, §85, 89; 2012 Acts, ch 1132, §16

Referred to in §84A.5

84A.7 Iowa conservation corps.

1. *Definitions.* As used in [this section](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

a. “Account” means the Iowa conservation corps account.

b. “Corps” means the Iowa conservation corps.

2. *Iowa conservation corps established.* The Iowa conservation corps is established in this state to provide meaningful and productive public service jobs for youth, unemployed persons, persons with disabilities, disadvantaged persons, and elderly persons, and to provide participants with an opportunity to explore careers, gain work experience, and contribute to the general welfare of their communities and the state. The corps shall provide opportunities in the areas of natural resource and wildlife conservation, park maintenance and restoration, land management, energy savings, community improvement projects, tourism, economic development, and work benefiting human services programs. The department of workforce development shall administer the corps and shall adopt rules governing its operation, eligibility for participation, cash contributions, and implementation of an incentive program.

3. *Funding.* Corps projects shall be funded by appropriations to the Iowa conservation corps account and by cash, services, and material contributions made by other state

agencies or local public and private agencies. Public and private entities who benefit from a corps project shall contribute at least thirty-five percent of the total project budget. The contributions may be in the form of cash, materials, or services. Materials and services shall be intended for the project and acceptable to the department of workforce development. Minimum levels of contributions shall be prescribed in rules adopted by the department of workforce development.

4. *Account created.* The Iowa conservation corps account is established within and administered by the department of workforce development. The account shall include all appropriations made to programs administered by the corps, and may also include moneys contributed by a private individual or organization, or a public entity for the purpose of implementing corps programs and projects. The department of workforce development may establish an escrow account within the department and obligate moneys within that escrow account for tuition payments to be made beyond the term of any fiscal year. Interest earned on moneys in the Iowa conservation corps account shall be credited to the account.

5. *Participant eligibility.* Notwithstanding any contrary provision of [chapter 8A, subchapter IV](#), and [chapter 96](#), a person employed through an Iowa conservation corps program shall be exempt from merit system requirements and shall not be eligible to receive unemployment compensation benefits.

[96 Acts, ch 1186, §14](#); [97 Acts, ch 23, §8](#); [99 Acts, ch 21, §4](#); [2002 Acts, ch 1050, §13](#); [2003 Acts, ch 145, §157](#)

Referred to in [§84A.5](#), [§97B.1A](#)

84A.8 Workforce investment program.

A workforce investment program is established to enable more Iowans to enter or reenter the workforce. The workforce investment program shall provide training and support services to population groups that have historically faced barriers to employment. The department of workforce development shall administer the workforce investment program and shall adopt rules governing its operation and eligibility guidelines for participation.

[96 Acts, ch 1186, §15](#)

Referred to in [§84A.5](#)

84A.9 Statewide mentoring program.

A statewide mentoring program is established to recruit, screen, train, and match individuals in a mentoring relationship. The department of workforce development shall administer the program in collaboration with the departments of human services, education, and human rights. The availability of the program is subject to the funding appropriated for the purposes of the program.

[96 Acts, ch 1186, §16](#)

Referred to in [§84A.5](#)

84A.10 New employment opportunity program.

The department of workforce development shall implement and administer a new employment opportunity program to assist individuals in underutilized segments of Iowa's workforce, including but not limited to the persons with physical or mental disabilities, persons convicted of a crime, or minority persons between the ages of twelve and twenty-five, to gain and retain employment. The program shall be designed to complement existing employment and training programs by providing additional flexibility and services that are often needed by individuals in underutilized segments of the workforce to gain and retain employment. Services provided under the program may include, but are not limited to, transportation costs, child care, health care, health care insurance, on-the-job training, career interest inventory assessments, employability skills assessment, short-term basic education, internships, mentoring, assisting businesses with compliance issues related to the federal Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and reducing perceived risks that cause these populations to be underutilized. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to administer the program, including rules relating to eligibility criteria, eligible populations, and services to implement the intent of [this section](#).

[2000 Acts, ch 1230, §20](#)

84A.11 Nursing workforce data clearinghouse.

1. *a.* The department of workforce development shall establish a nursing workforce data clearinghouse for the purpose of collecting and maintaining data from all available and appropriate sources regarding Iowa's nursing workforce.

b. The department of workforce development shall have access to all data regarding Iowa's nursing workforce collected or maintained by any state department or agency to support the data clearinghouse.

c. Information maintained in the nursing workforce data clearinghouse shall be available to any state department or agency.

2. The department of workforce development shall consult with the board of nursing, the department of public health, the department of education, and other appropriate entities in developing recommendations to determine options for additional data collection.

3. The department of workforce development, in consultation with the board of nursing, shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to administer the data clearinghouse.

4. The nursing workforce data clearinghouse shall be established and maintained in a manner consistent with the health care delivery infrastructure and health care workforce resources strategic plan developed pursuant to [section 135.164](#).

5. The department of workforce development shall submit a report to the governor and the general assembly, annually by January 15, regarding the nursing workforce data clearinghouse, and, following establishment of the data clearinghouse, the status of the nursing workforce in Iowa.

[2010 Acts, ch 1147, §1, 13](#)